



Embassy of the United States of America

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

No. 202

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan, and has the honor to refer to discussions between representatives of our two governments regarding issues related to United States military and civilian personnel of the United States Department of Defense who may be present in Afghanistan in connection with cooperative efforts in response to terrorism, humanitarian and civic assistance, military training and exercises, and other activities.

The Embassy proposes, without prejudice to the conduct of ongoing military operations by the United States, that such personnel be accorded a status equivalent to that accorded to the administrative and technical staff of the Embassy of the United States of America under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961; that United States personnel be permitted to enter and exit Afghanistan with United States identification and with collective movement or individual travel orders; that Afghan authorities shall accept as valid, without a driving fee or test, driving licenses or permits issued by the appropriate United States authorities to United States personnel for the operation of vehicles; and that such personnel be authorized to wear uniforms while performing official duties and to carry weapons when their orders call for it.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P. B.' or similar, located at the bottom right of the page.

The Embassy further proposes that vehicles and aircraft owned or operated by or for the United States armed forces shall not be subject to the payment of landing, navigation, over flight or parking charges or overland transit fees or tolls while in Afghanistan; however, the United States armed forces shall pay reasonable charges for services requested and received. Aircraft and vehicles of the United States shall be free of inspections.

The Government of the United States of America, its military and civilian personnel, contractors and contractor personnel shall not be liable to pay any tax or similar charge assessed within Afghanistan.

The Government of the United States of America, its military and civilian personnel, contractors and contractor personnel may import into, export out of, and use in the Republic of Afghanistan any personal property, equipment, supplies, materials, technology, training or services required to implement this agreement. Such importation, exportation and use shall be exempt from any inspection, license, other restrictions, customs duties, taxes or any other charges assessed within Afghanistan. The governments of the United States of America and Afghanistan shall cooperate in taking such steps as shall be necessary to ensure the security of United States personnel and property in Afghanistan.

In the event that the government of the United States of America awards contracts for the acquisition of articles and services, including construction, such contracts shall be awarded in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Government of the United States of America. Acquisition of articles and services in the republic of Afghanistan by or on behalf of the Government of the United States of America in implementing this agreement shall not be subject to any taxes, customs duties or similar charges in Afghanistan.

The Government of Afghanistan recognizes the particular importance of disciplinary control by United States military authorities over United States personnel and, therefore, Afghanistan authorizes the United States Government to exercise criminal jurisdiction over United States personnel. The Government of Afghanistan and the Government of the United States of America confirm that such personnel may not be surrendered to, or otherwise transferred to, the custody of an international tribunal or any other entity or state without the express consent of the Government of the United States.

The Government of Afghanistan recognizes that it shall be necessary for United States personnel and systems to use the radio spectrum. The United States Government shall be allowed to operate its own telecommunication systems (as telecommunication is defined in the 1992 Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union). This shall include the right to utilize such means and services as required to assure full ability to operate telecommunication systems, and the right to use all necessary radio spectrum for this purpose. Use of radio spectrum shall be free of cost.

Finally, the Embassy proposes that, other than contractual claims, the parties waive any and all claims against each other for damage to, or loss or destruction of, property owned by each party, or death or injury to any military or civilian personnel of the armed forces of either party, arising out of activities in Afghanistan under this agreement. Claims by third parties arising out of the acts or omissions of any United States personnel may, at the discretion of the United States Government, be dealt with and settled by the United States Government in accordance with United States law.

03

If the foregoing is acceptable to the Government of Afghanistan, the Embassy proposes that this note, together with the Ministry's reply to that effect, shall constitute an agreement between the two governments which shall enter into force on the date of the Ministry's reply.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Islamic Government of Afghanistan the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the United States of America

Kabul, September 26, 2002



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Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[SEAL]

Fifth Political Department

Document No. 791
Date: December 12, 2002

Note

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Islamic Government of Afghanistan respectfully informs the Embassy of the United States of America:

Following the negotiations between the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and the American side that took place in Washington, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs declares its concurrence with the content of Note No. 202 dated, September 26, 2002, of the esteemed Embassy regarding the application of the provisions of the 1961 Vienna Convention to the civilian and military personnel of the United States of America.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate the assurances of its consideration.

[Stamp of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

To the Embassy of the United States of America in Kabul

Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[SEAL]

America and Canada Political Affairs Division

Document No. 93
Date: May 28, 2003

To the Embassy of the United States of America in Kabul:

Pursuant to Note No. 791, dated December 12, 2002, regarding the conclusion of an agreement for application of the provisions of the 1961 Vienna Convention to the civilian and military personnel of the United States Department of Defense present in Afghanistan for the useful campaign against terrorism, humanitarian assistance, and other activities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs declares its concurrence with the terms of Note No. 202, dated September 26, 2002, which reads as follows.

(The Embassy of the United States of America without prejudice to the ongoing military operations by the United States, proposes that such personnel be given the status equivalent to the one given to the administrative and technical staff of the United States Embassy under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961; that the personnel of the United States be permitted to enter and exit Afghanistan with United States identification and with collective movement or individual travel orders; that Afghan authorities shall accept as valid, without a driving fee or test, the licenses and permits issued by the appropriate authorities of the United States to the personnel of the United States for operating vehicles; and that while performing official duties, the personnel should be authorized to wear uniforms and carry weapons when needed.

The Embassy also proposes that vehicles and airplanes owned or operated by or for the United States armed forces shall not be subject to the payment of landing, navigation, over flight or parking charges or overland transit fees or tolls while in Afghanistan. However, the United States armed forces shall pay reasonable charges for service requested or received. US planes and vehicles of the United States shall be free of inspection.

The Government of the United States, its military and civilian personnel, contractors and contractor personnel shall not be liable for any kind of tax or other similar fees assessed within Afghanistan.

The Government of the United States, its military and civilian personnel, contractors and contractors personnel may import and export any personal property, equipment, supplies, materials, technology, training services that are required for the implementation of this agreement and use them in Afghanistan. Such importation, exportation and use should be exempt from any inspection, license, other limitations, tariffs or any other rental charges assessed in Afghanistan. If necessary, the Governments

of the United States and Afghanistan shall cooperate for takings steps to ensure the security of the United States personnel and property in Afghanistan.

If at any time the Government of the United States of America awards contracts to acquire materials and services, including construction, they should be awarded in accordance with the law and regulations of the Government of the United States. The acquisition of material and services in Afghanistan by the Government of the United States of America or on its behalf in implementation of this agreement shall not be subject to any taxes, tariffs or similar charges in Afghanistan.

The government of Afghanistan recognizes the particular importance of disciplinary control by the United States military authorities over United States personnel and the Government of Afghanistan authorizes the United States of America to exercise its criminal jurisdiction over the personnel of the United States. The Government of Afghanistan and the Government of the United States confirms that without the explicit consent of the Government of the United States, such personnel may not be surrendered to, or otherwise transferred to the custody of an international tribunal or any other entity or State.

The Government of Afghanistan recognizes the right of use of the radio spectrum for the personnel and systems of the United States. The United States shall be allowed to operate its own telecommunication systems (as defined in the constitution of the International Telecommunication Union). This shall include the right to use such means and services as required, assuring full ability to operate telecommunication systems, and the right to use all necessary radio spectrum for this purpose. Use of the radio spectrum shall be free of cost.

Finally the Embassy proposes that, other than contractual claims, the parties waive any and all claims against each other for damage to or loss or destruction of property owned by either party, or death or injury to any military or civilian personnel of the armed forces of either party, as a result of activities in Afghanistan under this agreement. Claims by third parties that will arise as a result of the actions or omissions of United States personnel should, at the discretion of the United States Government, be dealt with and settled in accordance with United States law).

With reference to the content of the above Note of the esteemed Embassy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs declares that this document shall enter into force upon signature.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Doctor Abdullah
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan